UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION V

DATE: MAY 1 1986

SUBJECT: Summary of Findings During National Lead/Taracorp-Granite City, Illinois Site Visit

FROM: Brad Bradley BB
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TO: National Lead/Taracorp-Granite City, Illinois File

Thru: Russell E. Diefenbach, Chief
Illinois/Indiana Unit

Date of Visit: February 26, 1986 at 11:00a.m.

Personnel Participating

George Webb-National Lead
Ken Miller - Illinois EPA
Brad Bradley - U.S. EPA

Purpose

The purpose of this site visit was to become familiar with the general layout and operations at the facility and to determine what constituents generated by past and present operations were disposed of at the site.

Findings

Past operations at the site are well documented in the file; therefore, only new findings will be presented in this memo. Twelve photographs of the Taracorp waste pile and the St. Louis Lead Recyclers pile were taken during the site visit and are displayed in the attachment to this memo.

Present operations at the facility include lead refining and fabrication to produce lead sheet, shot, solder, and other lead products. Antimony, arsenic, silver, and other metals are added during the refining process to form drosses which are saleable; no slag or matte is formed during present site operations.

The surface of the Taracorp waste pile consists primarily of plastic from crushed and uncrushed battery cases. Large quantities of slag and matte and miscellaneous debris, including concrete, brick, drums, pipes, wood, and large metal structures, are also visible on the surface of the pile (see photographs). The exact contents of the interior of the pile are not known. According to George Webb, battery crushing was not performed until the latter years of operation; therefore, there is a high probability that a greater percentage of the lower levels of the pile are composed of matte and slag.

The matte and slag in the pile were generated from the prior operation of the blast furnace at the facility. The blast furnace has been shut down for several years and, according to the terms of a consent decree entered into with the Illinois EPA, cannot be started up until it is equipped with the appropriate lead air emissions controls. Contaminants present in the slag and matte include lead, arsenic, iron oxide, cadmium, siliceous materials, and rubber and plastic. Coke, iron ore, and sand were also introduced into the process as part of the charge.

There are 61,000 gallons of solid materials, primarily fluxes, contained in barrels in the Taracorp pile. A study to characterize the contents of the drums was conducted in May 1983 by Diane Spencer of the Illinois EPA.

The St. Louis Lead Recyclers (SLLR) pile is located several hundred feet offsite and is composed of crushed battery cases, primarily rubber (see photographs).

Recommended Follow-up Actions

1. Due to the unknown nature of the interior of the Taracorp waste pile, a statement should be included in the RI/FS Workplan that any additional parameters identified in Task 1, Description of Current Situation, will be added to the list of parameters for which to be analyzed in the slag, upper strata, SLLR pile, drummed material, and groundwater.

2. A copy of the May 1983 Illinois EPA study should be obtained and reviewed to identify additional parameters for inclusion in Table 2 of the RI/FS Workplan.

Attachment

Attachment

Photographs

Description of Photographs

Page one

Top: barrels in the Taracorp waste pile

Center: top of Taracorp waste pile

Bottom: part of northern boundary of Taracorp waste pile

Page two

Top: barrels along northwestern edge of Taracorp waste pile

Center: Close-up of a portion of northwestern edge of Taracorp waste pile

Bottom: western boundary of Taracorp waste pile

Page three

Top: fenced-in area at western end of Taracorp waste pile

Center: different angle of the above photograph

Bottom: SLLR pile

Page four

Top: close-up of SLLR pile

Center: western boundary of Taracorp waste pile with fenced-in area in foreground

Bottom: old battery crushing area (left) along northwestern edge of Taracorp waste pile